

ASSOCIATED PRESS

27 October 1983

DALLAS

FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE ARRESTED

BY SALLY CARPENTER HALE

A former U.S. State Department employee was charged Thursday with three counts of aggravated robbery in connection with holdups at savings and loan institutions during which bombs were left behind by an armed man wearing a cowboy hat.

The bombs were safely detonated after each robbery and no injuries were reported.

Horace Virgil Crank II, 48, who lives in the Dallas suburb of Garland, was arrested Wednesday night as he left a nightclub. He was being held under an initial bond of \$350,200.

X X X X X X X X

A State Department official who asked not to be identified said Crank is a former Los Angeles County deputy sheriff who worked from 1966 until 1974 for the department's Agency of International Development in Southeast Asia. Based in Vietnam, he and other U.S. law enforcement officers "counseled unsophisticated countries in developing a sophisticated police force," the source said.

Crank left the State Department when the program was canceled in 1974, the source said.

X X X X X X X X

Biff Winsor, owner of Biff's Restaurant where the suspect was arrested said Crank "had been coming here for about a year."

"He said he had been in the service and had also talked about being in the CIA," Winsor said "No one really knew exactly what he did."

Police spokesman Bob Shaw said investigators were checking reports Crank had CIA ties. "We don't know how much credibility to attach to that. Our people are looking into that ... We haven't established anything yet," Shaw said.

X X X X X X X X

EXCERPTED